

How to Hire a Surveyor

This information is courtesy of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources April, 2015 Kansas Floodplain Management Tips Newsletter.

Property owners will often need to hire a surveyor to do an elevation Certificate (EC) or to help them file for a Letter Of Map Amendment (LOMA). Community officials are sometimes asked to recommend a surveyor. That creates a problem for community officials who may want to recommend a surveying company they know is good but don't want the surveying companies they don't recommend to complain to the governing body.

We suggest that when someone asks about hiring a surveyor that you send them to the website for the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors: <http://ksls.com/>

On the right hand side of the home page there is a button that says, "Find a Surveyor". Click on the button and it shows a map of Kansas. Click on a particular county and the page will show a list of surveyors who do business in that county.

When calling surveyors we suggest that property owners be smart consumers and ask a few questions. Price is always a consideration. The experience of the survey company is a most important consideration. Ask if they have experience with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) forms such as LOMAs. Consider calling the next surveyor on the list if you are told they haven't ever done a LOMA or EC before.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Kansas Society of Land Surveyors (KSLs). At the top, there is a navigation bar with the title "Kansas Society of Land Surveyors" and a logo on the left. Below the navigation bar, there are several images: a surveyor using a total station, a magnifying glass over a map, and a person walking on a construction site. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Home**: A list of links including Calendar, Membership, Become a member, Officers, Board of Directors, Chapters, Committees, Organization, Continuing Education, Public Information, About Surveyors, Types of Surveys, Property Owner's Questions, Community Outreach Programs, Resources, Forms, Links, Statutes & Regulations, KDOT Policies, Kansas Surveying History, Career Center, Charitable Foundation, Surveying Education, Merchandise, Historical Records, Merchandise, Section Lines, Newsletter, and Contact Us.
- Addresses and Information**: Contact information for the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) and the Kansas State Historical Society. NSPS is located at 5119 Pegasus Court, Suite Q, Frederick, MD 21704. The Kansas State Historical Society is located at 6425 SW 8th Ave, Topeka, KS 66615.
- Become a KSLs Member**: A button to join the society.
- Find a Surveyor**: A button to find a surveyor in a specific county.
- Events 2015**: A section for upcoming events.
- Section Line Newsletter**: A button to subscribe to the newsletter.
- Mr. Fields**: A logo for a surveying-related service.
- NSPS**: The logo for the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

There are times when speed is an important consideration. There could be a mortgage loan closing that is being held up while waiting on a survey. It is certainly good to ask how soon a survey could be done of your property. For those needing a LOMA before a deadline, ask if the surveyor is signed up for the FEMA eLOMA program. The eLOMA program allows surveyors to turn in LOMA documents electronically for automatic approval. Surveyors who have signed up for the program have gotten LOMAs approved in as little as three hours.

There are a lot of great companies that do survey work in Kansas. You'll easily find one by doing a little research. Remember to be a smart consumer and ask a few simple questions before you hire someone to do a survey of your property.